

Remarks/Arguments

In the August 8, 2006 office action, claims 18-19 and 22 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisert (US Patent 2,568,045). Claims 18-19 and 21-22 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Partsch (US Patent 3,875,729).

Claim 18 is amended to specify the lower panel of the grass catcher extends over a ground contacting roller, and the grass catcher has a plurality of retaining structures integrally molded into the lower lip.

Claim 18 is patentable over Weisert or Partsch for each of the following reasons:

First, Weisert and Partsch fail to disclose a grass catcher having a lower panel that extends over a ground contacting roller. Weisert's sleeve formation 21 is next to roller 27, but Weisert's bottom wall 41 does not extend over roller 27. Partsch's sheet metal and fabric grass catcher has a bottom E that does not extend over roller R.

Second, Weisert and Partsch fail to disclose a plurality of retaining structures integrally molded into the lower lip. Weisert's sleeve formation 21 is not a plurality of retaining structures integrally molded into the lower lip, but is a sheet metal bend that extends across the front end of support tray 10. Partsch fails to show any retaining structures integrally molded into the lower lip. Instead, Partsch's reinforcing rod in Fig. 4 appears to be welded to the metal front edge of the grass catcher.

Claim 19 is patentable over Weisert or Partsch for at least the same reasons as claim 18 on which it depends. Additionally, Weisert and Partsch fail to disclose a reinforced grass catcher that comprises a plastic box-like structure having walls with substantially uniform thickness, each of the integral retaining structures having substantially the same thickness as the walls.

Claim 21 is patentable over Partsch for at least the same reasons as claim 18 on which it depends.

Claim 22 is patentable over Weisert or Partsch for at least the same reasons as claim 18 on which it depends. Additionally, Weisert and Partsch fail to disclose integral retaining structures that have an internal dimension, and the reinforcing rod has an outer cross sectional dimension no smaller than the internal dimension of the integral retaining structures. Partsch lacks any integral retaining structures, and

Weisert states: "rod 20 is received by a sleeve formation 21" without referring to the relative dimensions.

New claim 23 specifies the lower panel has a contoured bottom surface portion dimensioned to fit over the roller without interfering with roller movement. Claim 23 is patentable over Weisert or Partsch for at least the same reasons as claim 18 on which it depends, and because the cited references fail to disclose a contoured bottom surface portion dimensioned to fit over the roller without interfering with roller movement. Weisert's tray 10 has a flat bottom wall 41, and is not contoured to fit over roller 27. Partsch's grass catcher has a bottom E that is not contoured to fit over roller R.

In conclusion, it is believed that claims 18-19 and 21-23 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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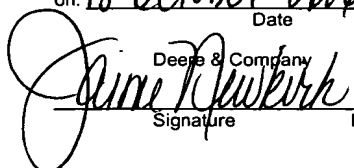
Respectfully,



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